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Taxonomic paper

# *Scutellista caerulea* (Fonscolombe, 1832) (Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae), new to New Zealand for the second time!

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## Abstract

In 1921, *Scutellista caerulea* was imported and released in Nelson, New Zealand, for the biological control of pest scale insects. It was thought to have failed to establish, and is therefore currently considered to be absent from the New Zealand fauna. On 17 April 2013, a live specimen was captured in the wild in Auckland.

## Keywords

*Scutellista caerulea*, Hymenoptera, Pteromalidae, New Zealand, Auckland, biological control, scale insects, NZOR

## Introduction

In 1921, *Scutellista caerulea* (Fonscolombe, 1832) was released in Nelson, New Zealand, for biological control of pest scale insects, but apparently failed to establish (Dumbleton 1936, as *S. cyanea*). It is not considered to be present in New Zealand, and is not listed on the New Zealand Organisms Register (NZOR). However, on 17 April 2013, I captured a single live female in the wild, in the grounds of the Tamaki Campus of the University of

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Auckland (see Fig. 1). The species is so distinctive that it cannot be confused with any other, even within the genus *Scutellista*.

Figure 1.

*Scutellista caerulea*, adult female in lateral view (length about 2 mm)

## Taxon treatment

### *Scutellista caerulea* (Fonscolombe, 1832)

#### Nomenclature

*Scutellista cyanea* Motschulsky, 1859

#### Material

a. country: New Zealand; verbatimLocality: Tamaki Campus of University of Auckland; verbatimLatitude: 36.8816119078S; verbatimLongitude: 174.8531936109E; eventDate: 17 April 2013; individualCount: 1; sex: female; recordedBy: Stephen Thorpe; institutionCode: Auckland Museum

#### Description

The specimen was identified using Bouček (1988), and references listed therein. I recommend that *S. caerulea* be added to the New Zealand Organisms Register (NZOR) as exotic, present in the wild. It is unclear if the new specimen represents a descendant of the original stock released in Nelson in 1921, or a new incursion from overseas. The balance of evidence favours the latter hypothesis, since Auckland is far from Nelson, and the species has not been seen in N.Z. for nearly a century.

## References


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